

Statistics Weekly

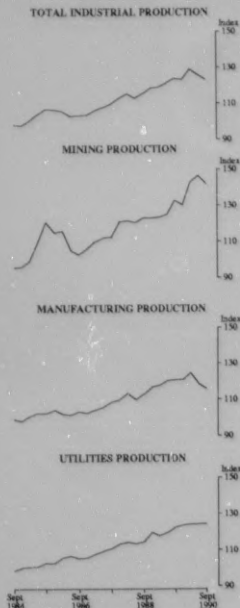
Thursday, 10 January 1991

The week in statistics ...

- ☐ Second successive fall in industrial production 2
- ☐ Drop in housing finance 3
- ☐ Vehicle industry slump deepens 3
- ☐ Oil prices again cause large rise in prices of
manufacturing materials 4
- ☐ Export price slide halted 4
- ☐ Petroleum prices still boosting prices of
manufactured goods 5
- ☐ Price increases in building materials ease 6
- ☐ Female labour force participation tops two-thirds 7
- ☐ Heart disease largest killer 8
- ☐ Sheep slaughterings on the increase 8
- ☐ Wool production to fall from last year's record 9
- ☐ All the releases: 19 December 1990 to
8 January 1991 10
- ☐ Calendar of key releases up to 22 January 1991 11
- ☐ The latest ... 11
 - key State indicators 11
 - key national indicators 12

Second successive fall in industrial production

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX
Seasonally adjusted at constant prices
1984-85 = 100



The constant price value of industrial production fell by 2.2 per cent in the September quarter 1990 in seasonally adjusted terms, following an identical fall in the previous quarter.

The quarterly index of industrial production at constant prices, which contains this information, is a new series. The underlying estimates of gross product used to produce the index are consistent with those used in the National Accounts. The 'industrial sector' covered is the non-farm, goods producing sector, which covers mining, manufacturing, and utilities (electricity, gas and water).

The industrial production index, dominated by the manufacturing industry, has fallen in three of the last four quarters. The trend now shows decline for the second successive quarter following 14 consecutive quarters of growth.

The seasonally adjusted index for the mining industry fell by 3.1 per cent in the September quarter following strong growth recorded over the past four years.

The index for the manufacturing industry contracted by 2.2 per cent following a marked 4.9 per cent fall in the June quarter.

Eight of the twelve industry subdivisions of manufacturing recorded falls in the index for the September quarter, the largest falls occurring in the textiles industry (down 17.3%) and transport equipment industry (down 11.4%). Since the September quarter 1989, significant contractions have been recorded for the clothing and footwear industry (down 23.5%) and transport equipment industry (down 21.4%).

The utilities industry recorded a very slight growth (up 0.2%) in the September quarter, consistent with small increases recorded over the last three quarters.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1990

Seasonally adjusted at average 1984-85 prices
Percentage change

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Mining (excluding services to mining)	-3.1	7.0
Manufacturing	-2.2	-3.9
Electricity, gas and water	0.2	1.7
Total industrial production	-2.2	-0.4

For further information, order the publication Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Australia (8125.0) or contact Alan Tryde on (06) 252 6801. Information in relation to the manufacturing industry was previously available from the publication Quarterly Indexes of Manufacturing Production, Australia (8219.0).

Drop in housing finance

Seasonally adjusted, housing finance commitments for October 1990 were \$1,585.6 million down \$76.7 million (4.6%) on September 1990 but up \$159.4 million (11.2%) on October 1989.

The decrease in housing finance for October 1990 compared with September 1990 reflected the falls in finance for:

- ☐ construction of dwellings, down \$25 million (7.5%)
- ☐ purchase of newly erected dwellings, down \$7.4 million (5.7%)
- ☐ purchase of established dwellings, down \$44.2 million (3.7%).

Banks, which provide the bulk of housing finance, committed \$70.9 million (5.6%) less in October 1990 than in September 1990; permanent building societies also recorded a decrease, down \$1.4 million (0.7%), as did other lenders, down \$4.4 million (2.1%).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, OCTOBER 1990
Seasonally adjusted

Purpose of commitment	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Construction of dwellings	307.3	-7.5	14.5
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	121.7	-5.7	63.1
Purchase of established dwellings	1,156.7	-3.7	6.8
Total	1,585.6	-4.6	11.2

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance For Owner Occupation* (5609.0), or contact Derek Pike on (06) 252 7129.

Vehicle industry slump deepens

New motor vehicle registrations decreased by 9.1 per cent to 46,936 in November in seasonally adjusted terms when compared with November 1989 (51,612) and decreased by 7.8 per cent compared with October 1990.

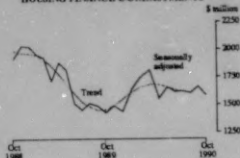
Compared with October, all States showed a decline in registrations in seasonally adjusted terms, with Victoria (down 18.0%), South Australia (down 13.3%) and Queensland (down 8.2%) being the States most affected.

The trend estimate declined for the seventh month in a row, with a fall of 1.3 per cent for November.

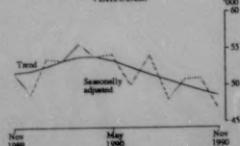
Seasonally adjusted car and station wagon registrations fell by 8.3 per cent to 36,704 compared with October 1990, while other vehicle registrations fell by 6.2 per cent to 10,232.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary* (9301.0), or contact Karen Lynch on (06) 252 6741.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS



REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES



Oil prices again cause large rise in prices of manufacturing materials

The price indexes of materials used in manufacturing industries increased by 4.6 per cent in October 1990, continuing the large monthly increases recorded since August.

The increase was mainly due to higher prices for imported and domestic crude petroleum, reflecting the continuing increase in world oil prices.

Prices for home produced materials recorded an increase of 4.6 per cent in October. The increase was caused mainly by increased prices for domestic crude petroleum, partly offset by decreases in other materials such as live animals and other agricultural products and in some metal ores and concentrates.

The increase for imported materials of 4.7 per cent also resulted mainly from increased prices for crude petroleum. However, because of shipment lags, the full effect of higher world prices for imported crude has yet to be fully reflected in the index.

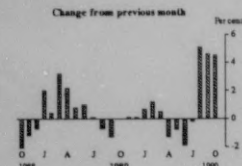
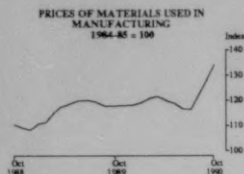
Over the year to October prices of manufacturing materials increased by 13.8 per cent, the largest annual increase since May 1987.

The table below shows the impact of these price movements on imported and home produced materials.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, OCTOBER 1990
Percentage change

Source of materials	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	4.7	8.2
Home produced	4.6	16.9
All manufacturing	4.6	13.8

For further information, order the publication Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.



Export price slide halted

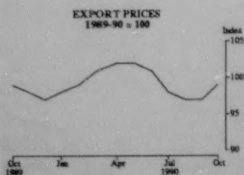
Export prices increased by 2.1 per cent in October 1990, the first monthly increase since April 1990.

Petroleum products continued to increase significantly in October reflecting world market conditions. Increased prices for chemical and aluminium products also contributed significantly to the overall increase.

About one third of the commodities included in the index recorded price decreases. The most significant decreases were for textile fibres, reflecting lower wool and cotton prices.

On an annual basis, export prices recorded no change between October 1989 and October 1990.

Continued ...



The table below shows the wide divergence in the price changes for the different commodities.

EXPORT PRICES, OCTOBER 1990
Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Live animals and animal products	1.1	-6.9
Vegetable products	-2.4	-18.0
Prepared foodstuffs	1.1	-5.0
Mineral products	5.6	15.2
Products of chemicals or allied industries	4.0	10.5
Wool and cotton fibres	-3.4	-15.2
Gold, diamonds and coin	2.1	2.1
Base metals	1.0	-4.8
Machinery and mechanical appliances	2.0	1.0
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	1.0	3.1
All exports	2.1	0.0

For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

Petroleum prices still boosting prices of manufactured goods

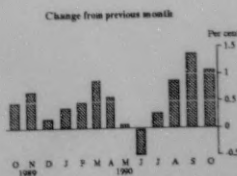
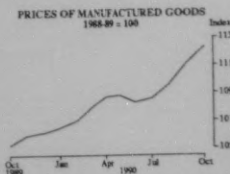
Prices of manufactured goods rose by 1.1 per cent in October 1990. For the third consecutive month, the main contributor to the rise was higher prices for refined petroleum products, reflecting large increases in world oil prices. The table below demonstrates the impact of the price rises.

Prices of a large number of other items also increased in October, though these increases were partly offset by price falls for about one third of the items included in the index.

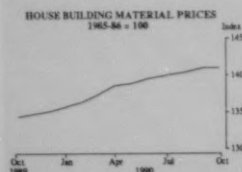
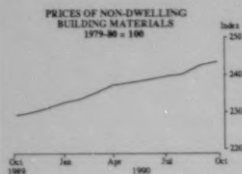
The increase in October resulted in the annual rate of increase rising to 6.7 per cent, the highest annual rate since January 1990.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, OCTOBER 1990
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Food and beverages	0.1	2.6
Clothing and footwear	-0.1	4.9
Chemical products	0.4	2.8
Petroleum products	11.8	73.0
Basic metal products	0.9	3.6
Fabricated metal products	0.4	6.8
Transport equipment	0.1	4.8
Other industrial machinery	0.2	2.6
Total manufacturing	1.1	6.7



Price increases in building materials ease



Prices for materials used in other than house building showed a monthly increase of 0.4 per cent in October 1990, while overall prices for house building materials remained unchanged with increases in some materials being offset by decreases in other materials.

The main price increase in October for house building materials was for ready mixed concrete while the most significant decrease was for structural timber.

For materials used in buildings other than houses the main price increases were for air conditioning equipment, ready mixed concrete, joinery products, sand aggregate and filling, and conductors.

Over the year to October 1990 prices for house building materials increased by 4.9 per cent and prices for materials used in other buildings increased by 6.3 per cent.

In the case of materials used in house building this continued the downward trend in the annual rate evident since October 1988. The annual rate of increase for materials for other building has also generally been declining steadily for more than a year.

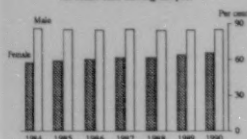
PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS
OCTOBER 1990
Percentage change

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	-0.1	4.7	0.7	7.0
Melbourne	-0.2	3.9	0.2	4.9
Brisbane	0.2	5.9	0.4	7.1
Adelaide	0.4	5.7	0.4	6.8
Perth	0.1	6.3	0.2	6.4
Hobart	0.3	4.9	0.4	4.1
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.0	4.9	0.4	6.3
Darwin	— not available —		-0.1	5.4
Canberra	0.3	4.6	0.4	6.4

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building*, *Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building*, *Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Peter Sturgeon on (06) 252 6198.

Female labour force participation tops two-thirds

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION
At some time during the year



The proportion of females who participated in the labour force at some time during the year ended March 1990 was 67 per cent. Six years earlier it was 59 per cent. Male participation rates remained steady over the same period at around 86 per cent.

Results from the annual survey of labour force experience show that female participation, measured on this annual basis, rose by more than four percentage points since 1988, after temporarily stabilizing at 63 per cent in that year.

Some 55 per cent of all persons aged between 15 and 69 spent the full 52 weeks of the preceding year in the labour force. Of those who were not in the labour force for the full year, about half were not in the labour force at any time during the twelve months ended March 1990.

Of the 8,656,600 persons who worked at some time during the year, 6,242,800 (72%) worked all their weeks as full-time employees, with 1,699,500 (20%) working all their weeks part-time.

A summary of labour force experience is shown in the following table.

LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR
Per cent

	February 1984	March 1990
Not in the labour force at any time	27.0	23.3
In the labour force at some time	73.0	76.7
Worked at some time	67.4	73.3
Looked for work at some time	14.7	12.4

There were an estimated 1,459,900 people who looked for work at some time during the preceding year. The average duration of time spent looking for work was around 17 weeks.

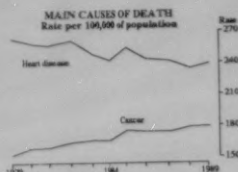
Of the 5,335,300 persons who spent some time out of the labour force during the preceding year, 52 per cent were not in the labour force for the whole year.

The main activities when not in the labour force for males were:

- ☐ attending an educational institution (28%)
- ☐ retired or voluntarily inactive (27%)
- ☐ travelling, moving house, holiday (19%)
- ☐ own illness, injury/disability (14%).

About 62 per cent of females reported 'home duties/childcare' as their main activity when not in the labour force, with a further 15 per cent reporting that they were attending an educational institution.

For further information, order the publication *Labour Force Experience, Australia* (6206.0), or contact Michael Jones on (06) 252 6503.



Heart disease largest killer

Heart disease and cancer were the two leading causes of death in Australia in 1989. Together they accounted for 57 per cent of the total 124,232 deaths registered in 1989.

Total deaths and the death rate per 100,000 population were both up slightly on 1988, and the percentages of total deaths attributed to heart disease and cancer were virtually unchanged.

The most notable increases in the death rates between 1988 and 1989 were in the respiratory diseases class. Deaths from pneumonia and influenza were up from 10 to 14 per 100,000 of population and for other respiratory diseases (including asthma, emphysema and bronchitis) from 38 to 43 deaths per 100,000 of population.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH, 1989

Cause of death	Number of deaths	Death rate per 100,000	Percentage of total deaths
All causes	124,232	738	100.0
Heart disease	40,261	239	32.4
Cancer	30,144	179	24.3
Stroke	12,579	75	10.1
Respiratory diseases other than pneumonia and influenza	7,180	43	5.8
Accidents	5,621	33	4.5
Motor vehicle traffic accidents	2,828	17	2.3
Pneumonia and influenza	2,304	14	1.9

In 1989, there were 2,509 perinatal deaths in Australia, of which 1,451 were fetal deaths (stillbirths) and 1,058 were neonatal deaths (children born alive who died within 28 days of birth).

Mothers resident in the Northern Territory had the highest perinatal death rate in 1989 at 21.1 deaths per 1,000 births, followed by mothers resident in Tasmania at 11.0. Western Australian mothers had the lowest perinatal death rate at 8.8 deaths per 1,000 births.

For further information, order the publications *Causes of Death, Australia* (3303.0) and *Perinatal Deaths, Australia* (3304.0), or contact Peter Petryk on (06) 252 6310.

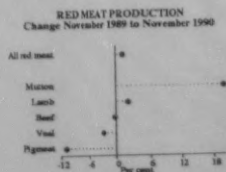
Sheep slaughtering on the increase

Sheep slaughtering in Australia rose by 3 per cent in November 1990 on top of a large rise of 25 per cent in October.

The November figure of 1,759,100 was 21 per cent higher than the November 1989 total, and in the five months to November 1990 there were 16 per cent more sheep slaughtered than in the same period a year earlier.

These figures relate to sheep slaughtered for human consumption, and do not include those killed for boiling down, or for burial under the current flock culling program.

Continued ...



Slaughterings in most other categories of livestock fell in the month, as the table shows.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED, NOVEMBER 1990
Percentage change

	From October 1990	From November 1989
Cattle slaughtered	-3.4	-0.6
Calves slaughtered	-55.3	-3.1
Sheep slaughtered	3.0	20.8
Lambs slaughtered	-4.5	1.1
Pigs slaughtered	-12.7	-14.7
Chickens slaughtered	-10.2	-1.8

In original terms total red meat production fell by 3.5 per cent for November 1990 but increased by 0.6 per cent seasonally adjusted. Veal production fell by 12.8 per cent seasonally adjusted. Chicken meat production fell in each State, with total production down by 12 per cent compared with October 1990.

Whole milk intake in October 1990 rose 22.2 per cent over September 1990.

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia* (7215.0), or contact Marion Long on (06) 252 5337.

Wool production to fall from last year's record

Shorn wool production is expected to decrease by 1.0 per cent in 1990-91, to 1,019 thousand tonnes, compared with the record of 1,029 thousand tonnes in 1989-90. The highest wool production in previous boom periods was 837 thousand tonnes in 1969-70.

Shorn wool production is expected to fall in all States except Queensland and Western Australia, where production is expected to increase by 17.5 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively.

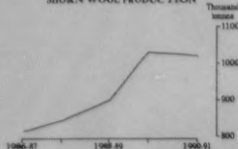
The number of sheep and lambs shorn is projected to rise by 2.5 per cent in 1990-91, to 221 million. The average cut per head, however, is expected to be 4.62 kilograms, 3.3 per cent lower than the record 4.78 kilograms of the 1989-90 season.

Despite the national flock culling program which commenced in 1990, total sheep and lamb numbers at 31 March 1991 are expected to be 167 million, just 3.6 per cent lower than a year earlier.

These forecasts were issued by the Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee after its meeting on 6 December, 1990. The committee consists of the following government and industry groups: the Australian Wool Corporation, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia, the Federal Council of Private Treaty Wool Merchants and the Wool Council of Australia.

For further information, order the publication *Sheep Numbers, Shearing and Wool Production Forecast, Australia* (7211.0), or contact Henry Stefanik on (06) 252 5341.

SHORN WOOL PRODUCTION



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6101

All the releases:

19 December 1990 to 8 January 1991

General

Statistics Weekly, 20 December 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, December 1990 (1305.1; \$12.50)
Economic Indicators, NSW, December 1990 (1307.1; \$3.30)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., December 1990 (1303.2; \$8.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, December 1990 (1304.3; \$8.00)
Queensland During the 1980s, 1980 to 1989 (1315.3; \$10.00) — *new issue*
Western Australian Year Book, 1990 (1301.5; \$29.50) — *final issue*
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, December 1990 (1305.5; \$8.00)
Economic Indicators, WA, December 1990 (1307.5; \$5.00)
Occasional Paper: Foundation to Federation, South Australian Statistical Sources, 1836 to 1901 (1102.4; \$10.00) — *new issue*
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, December 1990 (1303.4; \$8.00)

Demography

Causes of Death, Aust., 1989 (3303.0; \$15.00)
Perinatal Deaths, Aust., 1989 (3304.0; \$12.00)
Causes of Death, Qld, 1989 (3302.3; \$12.00) — *final issue*
Demography: Small Area Summary, Qld, 1989 (3309.3; \$12.00) — *final issue*

Social statistics

Hospital Statistics, SA, 1989 (4308.4; \$12.50) (*Previously: Inpatient Separations from Recognised Hospitals, SA*)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Wholesale Industry, Details of Income and Expense Items, Aust., 1986-87 (5225.0; \$5.00) — *new issue*
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., October 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
Personal Finance, Aust., October 1990 (5642.0; \$5.00)
Commercial Finance, Aust., September 1990 (5643.0; \$5.00)
Lease Finance, Aust., October 1990 (5644.0; \$5.00)
Assets of Superannuation Funds and Approved Deposit Funds, Aust., March Qtr 1989 to June Qtr 1990 (5656.0; \$10.00)

Labour statistics and prices

Trade Union Statistics, Aust., 30 June 1990 (6323.0; \$5.00)
Trade Union Members, Aust., August 1990 (6325.0; \$11.50)
Employment Benefits, Aust., August 1990 (6334.0; \$11.50)
Export Price Index, Aust., October 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, October 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, October 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., November 1990 (6410.0; \$3.50)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., October 1990 (6411.0; \$10.00)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., October 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)
House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, September Qtr 1990 (6416.0; \$25.00)
The Labour Force, NSW, May 1990 (6201.1; \$14.00)

Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., November 1990 (7215.0; \$7.00)
Viticulture, Aust., 1989-90 (7310.0; \$15.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Aust., September Qtr 1990 (8125.0; \$10.00) — *new issue*
Manufacturing Production, Aust., November 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
Manufacturing Production Aust., Food, Drink, Tobacco and Stock and Poultry Food, September 1990 (8359.0; \$8.50) (*Previously: Production of Food, Drink, Tobacco and Stock and Poultry Food, Aust.*)
Manufacturing Production, Aust., Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, September 1990 (8362.0; \$5.50) (*Previously: Production of Paper, Plastics, Paints, Industrial Chemicals and Detergents, Aust.*)
Manufacturing Production, Aust., Transport Equipment, October 1990 (8363.0; \$3.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust., Metal Products, October 1990 (8367.0; \$4.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust., Energy Products, October 1990 (8368.0; \$3.50)
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, November 1990 (8504.0; \$5.00)
Production Statistics, NSW, October 1990 (8304.1; \$5.00)
Building Activity, NSW, June Qtr 1990 (8752.1; \$8.10)

Building Approvals, Vic., November 1990 (8731.2; \$8.50)
 Dwelling Units Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., October 1990 (8741.2; \$8.00)
 Building Activity, Vic., September Qtr 1990 (8752.2; \$8.50)
 Sawmill Statistics, Qld, September Qtr 1990 (8206.3; \$3.30) — *final issue*
 Mineral Production, Qld, 1989-90 (8402.3; \$5.00) — *final issue*
 Building Approvals, Qld, November 1990 (8731.3; \$10.00)
 Building Approvals, WA, November 1990 (8731.5; \$10.00)
 Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, October 1990 (8741.5; \$10.00)
 Building Approvals, SA, November 1990 (8731.4; \$8.50)
 Forest Products, Tas., September Qtr 1990 (8203.6; \$3.30)

Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., Nov. 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
 Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic., November 1990 (9303.2; \$6.00)
 Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties, Qld, March Qtr 1990 (9405.3; \$10.00) (Previously: Qld Traffic Accidents, Qld)
 Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, October 1990 (9303.5; \$5.50)
 Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties, Tas., September Qtr 1990 (9405.6; \$5.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 22 January 1991

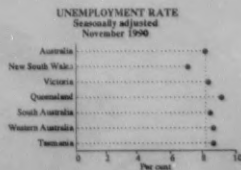
January

- 9** Balance of Payments, Australia, November 1990 (5301.0; \$15.00)
- 11** Building Approvals, Australia, November 1990 (8731.0; \$12.50)
- 17** The Labour Force, Australia, December 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)
 Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, November 1990 (6354.0; \$11.50)
 Retail Trade, Australia, November 1990 (8501.0; \$10.00)
- 21** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, November 1990 (5609.0; \$10.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

8 January 1991



Statistics Weekly
10 January 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (June qtr 90)	-2.3	-8.2	-5.5	-10.6	-19.6	-21.6	n.a.	n.a.	-8.8
Retail turnover (October 90) (trend estimate)	6.0	-1.5	4.5	7.2	2.1	7.7	n.a.	9.5	3.8
New motor vehicle registrations (Nov. 90)	-5.1	-20.5	-2.3	0.7	-13.0	-10.5	-9.5	-13.2	-9.1
Number of dwelling unit approvals (October 90)	-2.0	-8.1	-24.1	4.6	-14.0	15.0	158.2	6.4	-9.1
Value of total building work done (June qtr 90)	2.0	-5.4	-26.3	4.0	-15.9	-15.5	-6.0	-7.7	-7.5
Employed persons (November 90)*	-0.1	-1.0	0.0	-0.8	-0.3	1.3	-5.1	1.0	-0.3
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 90)	5.8	6.4	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.0
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (August 90)	5.4	7.0	6.9	7.3	7.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.4
Population (June 90)	1.0	1.4	2.6	1.0	2.5	1.2	0.6	2.3	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 90)	5.4	-0.9	5.7	5.5	-4.1	-1.2	8.5	14.8	3.6

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators - consolidated to 8 January 1991

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 90	93,635	93,427	-0.8	3.6
	— 1984-85 prices			63,132	63,670	-1.6	-0.7
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 90	7,188	7,515	6.9	-1.8
	— 1984-85 prices			5,435	5,692	6.4	-4.1
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Dec. 90	8,326	n.a.	n.a.	-5.5
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	October 90	7,148	7,090	-1.3	4.0
	— 1984-85 prices		Sept. qtr 90	14,213	14,858	0.4	0.4
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	November 90	47,498	46,936	-7.8	-9.1
Dwelling unit approvals		"	October 90	11,341	10,445	-0.8	-12.0
Value of all building approvals		\$m		1,956	1,808	-7.3	-26.5
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	June qtr 90	7,064	7,077	-6.9	-7.5
	— 1984-85 prices			4,484	4,493	-7.6	-12.8
Manufacturers' sales		"	Sept. qtr 90	35,796	34,854	1.3	-0.9
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to Dec. 90	37,757	n.a.	n.a.	0.3
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	November 90	7,849.9	7,826.1	-0.5	-0.3
Unemployment rate †		%	"	7.4	8.2	0.6	2.3
Participation rate †		"	"	63.5	63.8	-0.1	0.2
Job vacancies		'000	August 90	48.1	49.6	-1.3	-25.3
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.2	1.3	-6.5	-17.6
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 90	208.9	n.a.	0.7	6.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		October 90	134.1	n.a.	4.6	13.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		October 90	112.3	n.a.	1.1	6.7
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Sept. qtr 90	3,449	3,337	-4.2	-23.2
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	August 90	541.00	n.a.	1.3	6.4
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		November 90	12.45	n.a.	-0.35	-5.75
10-year Treasury bonds †				12.25	n.a.	-1.10	-0.85
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise (e)		\$m	October 90	4,413	4,351	4.7	5.8
Imports of merchandise (e)		"	"	4,580	4,122	1.9	-4.7
Balance on merchandise trade (c) (e)		"	"	-167	229	104.5	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c) (e)		"	"	-583	-87	56.9	84.2
Balance on current account (c) (e)		"	"	-1,669	-1,194	10.2	31.4
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 90	n.a.	105.3	0.3	-1.8
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 Sept. 90	124,507	n.a.	1.4	7.3
Net foreign liabilities				165,572	n.a.	3.3	7.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$US (e)	per \$A		October 90	0.8030	n.a.	-2.7	3.6
Trade weighted index (e)	May 1970 = 100.0		"	58.6	n.a.	-4.9	-2.5
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		June 90	17.1	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000		June 90	157	201	5.6	11.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 9 January 1991.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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